

7 November 2008

Chem-Bio News

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Chem-Demil News

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"It was through legislation sponsored by McConnell [i.e. KY Senator Mitch McConnell] 11 years ago that the program to destroy weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Depot and the Bluegrass Army Depot near Lexington, Ky., were separated from the Army's programs and put under the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives agency."

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

NORTH KOREA REFUSES SAMPLING AT NUCLEAR PLANTS, KYODO REPORTS

By Stuart Biggs

Bloomberg News

November 7, 2008

"North Korea's government won't allow the U.S. and other countries to take samples from its nuclear facilities, breaching a denuclearization agreement."

"North Korea will only allow inspectors to access its nuclear facilities, discuss documents on its atomic program and interview people related to the nuclear plans, Kyodo said, citing unidentified people familiar with the six-party disarmament talks."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aFxX.rZ6iEMM>

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NANOPARTICLES DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTIBACTERIAL TREATMENTS

News-Medical.net

November 7, 2008

"Scientists at the University of Liverpool have developed a new technology which can dramatically improve the effectiveness of antibacterial treatments.

Drugs with the ability to dissolve have much stronger efficacy, however many drugs are insoluble. In order to compensate, drugs often need to be administered in higher doses. This increases the possibility of bacteria and other organisms mutating as the high doses make it easier for them to build resistance to the drugs. This leads to treatments becoming obsolete and the need for new medicines to be developed."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=42560>

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DHS ANNOUNCES FISCAL YEAR 2009 GRANT GUIDANCE FOR OVER \$3 BILLION IN PREPAREDNESS GRANT PROGRAMS

US Department of Homeland Security News Release

November 5, 2008

"The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency today released Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Application Guidance for 14 federal grant programs, totaling more than \$3 billion available in federal funding to assist state and local governments in strengthening community preparedness. More than \$27 billion has been provided since 2002 to strengthen our nation's ability to prevent, protect, respond and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters or other emergencies.

"DHS also is announcing for the first time FY 2009 targeted allocations under the State Homeland Security Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative. This is the result of direct stakeholder feedback and will assist states and urban areas in writing investment justifications that reflect available grant resources. The department will continue to use the peer review process and applicants' effectiveness scores in determining final allocations.

Among the grant program allocations for FY 2009:

- * Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) – \$1.7 billion. FY 2009 HSGP funding priorities are targeted for either states or urban areas, and reflect capabilities that are most critical to build in those jurisdictions. At least 25 percent of the total FY 2009 HSGP funding must be dedicated for activities involving planning, training and exercises in building or sustaining capabilities. HSGP is comprised of four programs:

- o State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) – \$861.3 million to strengthen and build state, territorial and local preparedness capabilities through planning, equipment, training and exercise activities.

- o Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) – \$798.6 million to enhance regional preparedness by strengthening capabilities in 62 high-threat, high-density urban areas across the country. The seven highest risk urban areas will compete for approximately \$439 million, or 55 percent of available funds, while the remaining areas will compete for about \$359 million, or 45 percent of the funds.

- o Metropolitan Medical Response System Program (MMRS) – \$39.8 million is divided evenly among 124 MMRS jurisdictions to enhance and sustain comprehensive regional mass casualty incident response and preparedness capabilities."

- * Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) – \$15 million to support target-hardening activities at nonprofit organizations at high risk of a terrorist attack.

- * Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) – \$388.6 million to protect critical transit infrastructure from terrorism, including:

- o Freight Rail Security Grant Program (FRSGP) – \$15 million to target resources for security plans, vulnerability assessments, employee security awareness training and GPS tracking systems for railroad cars transporting toxic inhalation materials.

- o Intercity Passenger Rail (Amtrak) – \$25 million for Amtrak to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism, major disasters and other emergencies within the Amtrak rail system.

- * Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) – \$388.6 million to protect critical port infrastructure from terrorism, enhance maritime domain awareness and risk management capabilities to protect against improvised explosive devices and other non-conventional weapons; to conduct training and exercises; and support implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential.

- * Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) – \$48.6 million to increase preparedness capabilities of jurisdictions responsible for safeguarding critical infrastructure sites and key resource assets, such as chemical facilities and nuclear power plants, through planning and equipment acquisition.

- * Trucking Security Program (TSP) – \$7.8 million for eligible applicants to implement security improvement measures and policies that focus on the purchase, installation or enhancement of equipment and systems related to tractor and trailer tracking systems; to help develop a system for DHS to monitor, collect and analyze tracking information; and to develop plans to improve the transport and distribution of supplies and commodities during

catastrophic events.”

* “Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) – \$48.6 million for planning, training, exercises and equipment to states, territories, local and tribal governments to carry out initiatives identified in Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans, and improve interoperable emergency communications for responding to natural disasters and acts of terrorism.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1225900531284.shtm

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PLASTIC LABWARE CONTAMINANT RISK

By Lewis Brindley

Royal Society of Chemistry [UK] News Release

November 6, 2008

“Chemicals leaching from plastic lab equipment could be compromising the accuracy of biological studies, warn Canadian researchers. Clear labelling is needed to help scientists avoid plastics that could distort their results, say Andrew Holt at the University of Alberta and colleagues.

Cheap and disposable plasticware, such as precision pipette tips or micro-reaction vials, are widely used by chemists and biologists. However, additives used to manufacture plastics can leach out of the final product - as the recent concern over bisphenol A, the toxic compound that can leach from plastic baby bottles, has highlighted.”

'This is a useful study that points out the need to be sure of the components of the plasticware in use,' says Robin Hiley, a pharmacologist at the University of Cambridge. 'Plasticware is widely used for preparation of solutions and storage in freezers, and the issue of long term leaching might be a real one.'

However, using glassware instead would not be a perfect remedy to the problem, Hiley adds. 'Many agents can stick to glass through cleaning, which could also distort results at low concentration,' he says. 'In short - dissolver beware!'

The full article can be found at: <http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/News/2008/November/06110802.asp>

ANALYST NOTE: A matter of potentially significant import across a broad range CDBP research projects.

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Chem-Demil News

U.S. BOOSTS FUNDING FOR LAST TWO CW DISPOSAL SITES

By Chris Schneidmiller
Global Security Newswire
November 6, 2008

"The U.S. Defense Department has received its highest-ever budget for preparing two chemical weapons disposal sites that hold the key to meeting the congressional demand to eliminate the entire U.S. stockpile by 2017."

"The \$427.5 million provided to the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program for fiscal 2009 is a step in the right direction toward providing the money that will be needed to meet the deadline, one longtime observer said."

"Funding for the agency this year is up from \$407.1 million in fiscal 2008 and \$349.2 million in fiscal 2007."

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/ts_20081106_2645.php

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PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - KENTUCKY RACE HAS DEPOT RAMIFICATIONS

By John Norton
The Pueblo Chieftain
November 6, 2008

"Colorado Democrats were cheering as Barack Obama solidified his win and their party wrested away Congressional seats Tuesday night, but a few were also watching a race in another state that could have consequences for Pueblo."

"It was through legislation sponsored by McConnell 11 years ago that the program to destroy weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Depot and the Bluegrass Army Depot near Lexington, Ky., were separated from the Army's programs and put under the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives agency.

Both stockpiles will be destroyed using water neutralization instead of the incineration process favored by the Army at many other sites.

McConnell has been the most influential lawmaker in battling Pentagon delays of both projects and pushing for a 2017 deadline, four to five years earlier than current Pentagon estimates."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2008/11/06/news/local/>

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